

DAPSILARTHRA FOERSTER, 1862 (INSECTA,
HYMENOPTERA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.)2312

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The name of a small Holarctic genus of the ALYSIINAE (BRACONIDAE), *Dapsilarthra* Foerster, 1862, is threatened by the usually incorrectly interpreted name *Gnamptodon* Haliday, 1833. To prevent confusion between two similar names (*Gnamptodon* and *Gnaptodon*) by the same author in one family, the suppression of the older of the two names is requested. *Dapsilarthra* is a rather small genus containing parasites of Dipterous larvae belonging to the AGROMYZIDAE, ANTHOMYIIDAE, TEPHRITIDAE, PSILIDAE and SCATOPHAGIDAE. *Gnaptodon* Haliday, 1837 is also a small genus belonging to the GNAPTODONTINAE (to the ROGADINAE, or to the OPIINAE according to some authors) within the BRACONIDAE. This genus is widespread, and contains parasites of leaf-mining Lepidopterous larvae of the NEPTICULIDAE.

2. *Gnamptodon* was proposed by Haliday (1833, p. 265) with *Bassus rufiventris* Nees, [1812] as the type species by monotypy. There is no doubt about the interpretation of *Bassus rufiventris* Nees, [1812], despite its type being lost. It belongs to the genus *Dapsilarthra* Foerster, 1862 as it is widely accepted.

3. In 1837 (p. 204) Haliday mentioned the name *Gnamptodon* as a synonym of the subgenus *Opius*. However, later in the same paper (p. 220) he used the name *Gnaptodon*, instead of *Gnamptodon*, as a subgenus of *Opius* and included only one species, namely *Bracon pumilio* Nees, 1834, which is a Braconid belonging to the GNAPTODONTINAE. By so doing he formally described a new genus *Gnaptodon* (Articles 12 and 16(a) (v)). The name *Gnaptodon* may be purely a misprint, as suggested by Hincks (1943, p. 103), because Haliday himself used *Gnamptodon* again in 1840 (p. 61), but this time with *Bracon pumilio* Nees, 1834 as type. However this designation cannot stand because of his previous 1833 designation. Unfortunately he did not give a reason for changing his 1833 concept of *Gnamptodon*. However, judging from the characters mentioned by Haliday in 1833, he probably discovered his obvious misidentification of *Bassus rufiventris* Nees, [1812]. He also did not state in his 1840 paper that *Gnaptodon* was a '*lapsus calami*' for *Gnamptodon*. It may well be that *Gnaptodon* is a '*lapsus*' for *Gnamptodon*, but it is not possible to prove the misprint, and the problem about the first type designation in 1833

by Haliday remains to be solved. Since its description the generic name *Gnamptodon* has never been used according to its original valid type designation.

4. Until 1951 *Gnamptodon* was used according to the type-species designation used by Haliday in 1837 for *Gnaptodon* (Shenefelt, 1975, p. 1123). In 1951 Muesebeck & Walkley (p. 153) restored the name *Gnaptodon* to bring the type species and the generic name into agreement. This treatment has generally been accepted since then as is shown by the list of citations given by Shenefelt (1975, p. 1123).

5. *Dapsilarthra* as proposed by Foerster in 1862 (p. 267), with *Alysia apii* Curtis, 1826 as type species by monotypy, is threatened by the (only incorrectly used) generic name *Gnamptodon* when the valid type designation by Haliday in 1833 is accepted.

6. If the Code is strictly applied the names *Gnamptodon* Haliday 1833 (type species *Bassus rufiventris* Nees, [1812]) and *Gnaptodon* Haliday, 1837 (type species *Bracon pumilio* Nees, 1834) should both be used. As both genera belong to the family BRACONIDAE (though they are placed in different, but comparatively closely related subfamilies) and as the spelling *Gnamptodon* has often been used in the past for *Gnaptodon* Haliday, 1837, combined with the uncertainty about the correct spelling of *Gnaptodon*, the retention of both names would give rise to a lot of confusion. This could be prevented by the substitution of the name *Dapsilarthra* for *Gnamptodon*. This solution is the more desirable as *Dapsilarthra* has been used consistently for the genus since 1862, viz., in at least 15 different publications by 11 different authors, whilst in the same period not a single author has used the name *Gnamptodon* for it (Shenefelt, 1974, p. 986).

7. To avoid the loss of such a long established and much used name as *Dapsilarthra* Foerster, 1862, because of the priority of *Gnamptodon* Haliday, 1833 nec auct., the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Gnamptodon* Haliday, 1833, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Dapsilarthra* Foerster, 1862 (gender: feminine), type species, by monotypy, *Alysia apii* Curtis, 1826;
 - (b) *Gnaptodon* Haliday, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Bracon pumilio* Nees, 1834;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *apii* Curtis, 1826, as published in the binomen *Alysia apii* (specific name of type species of *Dapsilarthra* Foerster, 1862);
 - (b) *pumilio* Nees, 1834, as published in the binomen *Bracon pumilio* (specific name of type species of *Gnamptodon* Haliday, 1837);

- (4) to place the generic name *Gnamptodon* Haliday, 1833, suppressed under (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

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